

Weekly Update July 9th to July 22nd 2016

Busy week this week! We finished one round of maps and started another, as well as starting Fall Migration. We were surprised to be interrupted by the last thing we expected after the early dry spring we had... water levels in Lister Lake became so high that the water began to flow over the weir, as well as flooding the nearby forest. This is great for Beaverhill Lake, but our new MAPS stations SOPO and LILA are totally flooded out! What a crazy year for BBO.



Water rushing over the Weir. Last year and most of this year it was totally dry.

The extent of the flooding has raised some interesting questions. Could Beaverhill Lake be coming back? In the last week, we performed three lakebed surveys to assess this possibility: examining the north, southwest, and east shores. Certainly there is ankle deep and deeper standing water near the edge of the lake, but all areas we could reach still have vegetation present as well. We did observe multitudes of shorebirds and waterfowl using the water though, and incredibly discovered not one, but two Short-eared Owl nests! We are looking into methods to further survey the center of the lake at this time. We are hopeful for the return of Beaverhill Lake!

We managed to still catch a few interesting birds despite low numbers caught this week. A Northern Flicker was the highlight of BLAB for round number four of MAPS. We are also getting many hatch year birds now, particularly our Least Flycatchers and Song Sparrows. We even had a juvenile Hermit Thrush, showing very nice tan spots. We have had a bit of a rush of both Cedar Waxwings and Tennessee Warblers, and we believe both are breeding here this year. Pretty great!



Hermit Thrush. The tan spots mark it as a juvenile.

Finally, we have started Fall Migration. It is pretty slow, but we were caught by a surprise thundershower on day one, so we are being kept on our toes. We have already caught Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a Gray Catbird. Although we started Fall Migration ten days early this year, it does already feel like fall, with many leaves dropping from the trees. It is hard to say what is causing this, whether it was the early start the plants had this year prompting an early senescence, or whether the trees are perhaps stressed by the large volumes of water now in the soil, possibly drowning their roots. We will see as time goes on!

Thanks Jerry, Allyn, Helen, Alyssa, Aleisha, Andrew, Suzanne, Martijn, Nikki, Geoff and Gemma, Helen and Jackie, Natalia, Megan and friend, Cala, Ducks Unlimited guy, and others for visiting and volunteering.

Fall Migration Monitoring						
Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	8	4	1	0	0	13
House Wren	1	2	0	0	0	3
Black-capped Chickadee	2	1	0	0	1	4
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	1	2
Warbling Vireo	0	0	0	0	1	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Tennessee Warbler	2	0	0	0	1	3
Song Sparrow	4	0	0	0	0	4
Gray Catbird	0	1	0	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	22	8	1	0	4	35
Birds Caught	35					
Net Hours	110.5					
Capture Rate:	31.67					
Capture Rate was 31.67 birds/100 Net Hours.						

LILA Round Three						
Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Downy Woodpecker	2	0	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	12	5	0	0	0	17
House Wren	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	0	0	0	1	3
Warbling Vireo	2	1	0	0	0	3
Cedar Waxwing	3	0	0	0	0	3
Yellow Warbler	2	1	0	0	0	3
Tennessee Warbler	8	0	0	0	0	8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	4	0	0	0	0	4
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	3	0	0	0	0	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	41	7	0	0	2	50
Birds Caught	50					
Net Hours	60					
Capture Rate:	83.33					
Capture Rate was 83.33 birds/100 Net Hours.						

BLAB Round Four (SOPO and LILA flooded out, not run this round)						
Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Yellow shafted Flicker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	4	3	0	0	1	8
House Wren	1	0	0	0	1	2
Warbling Vireo	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	6	3	0	0	3	12
Birds Caught	12					
Net Hours	60					
Capture Rate:	20.00					
Capture Rate was 20 birds/100 Net Hours.						

- 1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.
- 2 Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).
- 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).